

# PAGE *TO* SCREEN



Feb. 13-June 6, 2015

Books have been a major source of inspiration for the film genre. Dr. Lawrence and Holley Thompson have collected memorabilia from films such as Zorro and James Bond and legends such as Chuck Jones and Walt Disney. This exhibition is a reflection of their dedication to the rich history of some of America's favorite pieces of literature that have been adapted to movies and television over the past 75 years.

Special thanks to: Dr. Lawrence and Holley Thompson, Tempe Center for the Arts Foundation, Tempe Public Library, Chuck Jones Center for Creativity, Arizona Museum of Natural History in Mesa; Arizona Historical Society/Southern Division in Tucson, Old Tucson, The Library of Congress in Washington, DC, Rolf Brown and artist Chris Gall and Dreamworks Animation.



Tempe Center for the Arts



# The Thompsons

The majority of the “Page to Screen” displays are on loan courtesy of collectors Dr. Lawrence and Holley Thompson of Ohio. The Tempe Center for the Arts thanks them for their generosity and dedication to the rich history of American Popular Culture.



## About the Thompsons

Holley: *I was born and raised in Jamestown, NY.*

Larry: *I was born and raised in Miles City, MT.*

*We are now ‘retired’ in central Ohio, having relocated multiple times during our business careers.*

*We met in the legal marketplace, frequently sharing the same customer base and for the most part attended the same customer events and industry meetings. We both had a love for the movies, music and live theatre and life took us from there.*

## Early Influences

Holley: *My family were late TV adopters – but I remember listening to the “Lone Ranger” on radio and was amazed ‘people’ had adventures so unlike what I witnessed in my small, western New York town. In my teen years I volunteered at the local public library – shelving books and dreaming about the characters and their adventures. I visualized them in my ‘mind’s eye’ and wondered what they would look like in person. Frequently those who eventually appeared on TV or in the movies didn’t appear as I had imagined – some better, some not so much.*

Larry: *My mother worked in the local library and was an avid reader. She insisted my brother and I read continuously, particularly the classics. But, I also discovered music and radio. Radio shows like “Lux Radio Theatre,” “Lights Out,” “Lone Ranger” and popular music from the 50s and 60s – fortunately having an extensive collection available when I was a disc jockey for a local radio station. This interest in popular culture transitioned to television and movies. But, it was the movies that really took my imagination by storm, to the point that I volunteered to sweep out theaters without pay so I could see every movie that came to our small Montana city, and every animation short shown during movies at that time.*



# The Thompsons

## Collecting Bug

*We have a somewhat eclectic collection including: (1) fine art (an expansive collection of signed pieces, etchings, glassware, etc., from many of the world's masters including Picasso, Dali, Miro, Max, Goya, Mouly, Rembrandt and others); (2) autographs (over 4,000 autographs from film, television, sports, space, politics and music); (3) animation (a vast collection of over 500 original production cells, autographs from nearly 200 animation "voices", nearly 4,000 hours of animated cartoons and shorts; (4) television and film memorabilia (includes costumes, scripts, toys, books, records, etc.). We do collect together, however Larry's education and experiences within TV and animation studios gives him an edge on collecting all things film and television.*

## Pop Culture Today

*Larry studied and taught popular culture and Holley came at it from the "user experience" perspective. Both of those have cemented our shared interest. We both clearly believe that the popular music, movies, books, toys and games are cultural influences everyone experiences from childhood into one's teen years and college adventures and they impact individual lives in many ways. We are what we watch, listen to and enjoy in more ways than many of us want to admit.*

## Our Displays

*In this particular display, we have contributed items from books, film, television, comics, toys, scripts, magazines and other popular culture memorabilia. We particularly like a few of the groupings: The first is the series of items (models, comics, movie poster, script, etc.) from TV's "Zorro." We watched the "Disney" show growing up and even now re-experience them since the old shows are available through our local cable. Another is M\*A\*S\*H; including a couple of signed autographs from the film's stars, action figures and various toys that go with them, paperback books, bubble gum cards, all the books written by the author and a board game. Finally, "The Untouchables" was a TV series long before the newer movies. But the series started with a novel. This grouping includes a board game, comic books and a unique Eliot Ness equipment set – featuring his gun, holster, ammunition, ID card, etc. We hope this exhibit brings to mind memories of the popular culture you (or your parents) experienced and enjoyed.*